

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the second paragraph on page 42 and the second paragraph on page 43 with the following paragraphs rewritten in amendment format:

If the parties, i.e. maintenance providers, instruct to set new communication lines between arbitrary two packet exchangers, the cooperative control section refers to two information, i.e., connection information, collected by the section for controlling line paths, in the line exchangers, and connection information, collected by the sections for controlling packet paths, in the packet exchangers, selects the communication lines, and instructs the section for controlling line paths to send out a message for setting and controlling connected lined. For example, the communication lines 3300-1-2, 3300-2-1, 3300-5-1, and 3300-4-1 are connected by the line swiches among a packet exchanger 31000-1 ~~4000-1~~ and a packet exchanger 31000-2 ~~4000-2~~; thus, it is determined that the commuication lines amonth the packet exchanges 31000-1 ~~4000-1~~ and 31000-2 ~~4000-2~~ are connectable. The section for controlling line paths sends out a message for setting and controlling connected lines and is transmitted to line exchanger 3200-1. The line exchange 3200-1, having received the messae for setting and controlling lines sets the line based on the instructed paths.

The packet/line exchangers 32000-1 are provided with line switch LS ~~line switches~~, packet switches, sections for controlling line paths, sections for controlling line paths according to the present according to the persent embodiment, the sections for

controlling line paths in the packets exchangers 31000 according to the embodiment 3, and the section for controlling line paths in the line exchangers 3200, are connected by internal communication paths.